

The Sounding Board

By RED LOCKWOOD

What Price Religion?

A layman has stated that "practiced religion, including specifically Christianity, has been more or less directly responsible for everything bad that has happened to man in the past 2,000 years."

The layman will be answered later by a theologian and The Sounding Board will fit the two voices into a dialogue for those who may be interested.

Of immediate concern today is the statement of the layman that "Abraham Lincoln probably was not a Christian. His own law partner said he was an infidel."

Mr. Lincoln faced allegations of this sort with some concern while he was alive and it seems that the passage of nearly a hundred years since his death has not stilled those voices.

On August 11, 1846, 117 years ago last Sunday, Mr. Lincoln took note of one of the contemporary voices, that of a minister who was running against Mr. Lincoln for Congress.

I Have Never Denied Truth

"A charge having got into circulation in some of the neighborhoods of this district, in substance that I am an open scoffer at Christianity, I have by the advice of some friends concluded to notice the subject in this form," wrote Mr. Lincoln to a newspaper.

That I am not a member of any Christian Church, is true; but I have never denied the truth of the Scriptures; and I have never spoken with intentional disrespect of religion in general, or of any denomination of Christians in particular.

"It is true that in early life," continued Mr. Lincoln, "I was inclined to believe in what I understand is called the 'Doctrine of Necessity' — that is, that the human mind is compelled to action, or held in rest by some power, over which the mind itself has no control; and I have sometimes (with one, two, or three, but never publicly) tried to maintain this opinion in argument, — the habit of arguing thus however, I have entirely left for more than five years — and I add here, I have always understood this same opinion to be held by several of the Christian denominations."

"The foregoing is the whole truth, briefly stated, in relation to myself, upon the subject."

"I do not think I could myself, be brought to support a man for office, whom I knew to be an open enemy of, and scoffer at, religion."

"Leaving the higher matter of eternal consequences between him and his Maker, I still do not think any man has the right thus to insult the feelings, and injure the morals, of the community in which he may live."

"If, then, I was guilty of such conduct, I should blame no man who should condemn me for it," Mr. Lincoln concluded, "but I do blame those, whoever they may be, who falsely put such a charge in circulation against me."

Assistance of a Divinity

Nearly fifteen years later, when leaving his friends and home on February 11, 1861, to depart for Washington, D.C., and the Presidency, Mr. Lincoln spoke briefly on the subject of a "Divine Being."

"I now leave not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington," said Mr. Lincoln.

"Without the assistance of that Divine Being Who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail."

"Trusting in Him, Who can go with me, and remain with you and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well."

"To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will recommend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell," said Mr. Lincoln.

The Mind of an Infidel?

It seems that the mind which could phrase those words in reference to a Divine Being was not the mind of an infidel.

Despite the warm and enduring affection which existed between Mr. Lincoln and Billy Herndon his law partner, Mr. Lincoln is a far better interpreter of his own mind than Herndon.

Mr. Lincoln recognized the fact that without our religions — whatever they may be — we human beings could not be able to tell the difference between what is good and what is bad.

Mormon Confab Set for Weekend

Elder Thorpe B. Isaacson, assistant to the Council of Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon), Salt Lake City, will preside at a quarterly conference of the Redondo Stake tomorrow and Sunday, August 24 and 25, in Torrance.

Accompanying Elder Isaacson will be Elders Richard S. Summerhays, a member of the Priesthood Home Teaching Committee; and Berkeley L. Bunker of the Missionary Committee.

General sessions of the conference will be conducted Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. by Stake President Leslie L. Prestwich.

Visitors are welcome to attend these meetings at 2000 Artesia Blvd.

Elder Isaacson was a teacher, principal, coach and district school administrator before he became a prominent Utah life insurance and real estate figure. He has served 12 years on the Board of Trustees of Utah State University, and four years on the University of Utah



ELDER THORPE ISAACSON ... to preside

Board of Regents. Elders Summerhays and Bunker will address special meetings for Priesthood and Missionary leaders on Saturday.



ATTENDING CRUSADE at Memorial Coliseum Sunday evening to hear Billy Graham, evangelist, was Carol McCarty of Torrance, who is pictured capturing the event on film as members of the audience sing hymns. A choir of nearly 5000 led the singing. Nearly 30,000 persons attended the service.

Smoking Study Results Published by Adventists

Southern Seventh-day Adventists, part of a large control group in a continuing study of smoking and health, are this week reading results of a study in which they have been participating.

Results are contained in article entitled "Low Pulmonary Rate Among Adventists," published in the current issue of "The Review and Herald," official news magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church published in Washington, D.C.

The article is authored by Drs. Frank R. Lemon and Richard T. Walden of Loma Linda (California) University School of Medicine. It cites findings of a study in which 63,000 Seventh-day Adventists throughout California were compared with the general California population from 1955 through 1959.

Sponsored by the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health of LIU's School of Medicine, the research studied the incidence of pulmonary emphysema among Seventh-day Adventists compared with that of the general California population.

Emphysema, a non-rever-

sible lung disease, has increased sixfold between 1950 and 1959, says the article. Some researchers have suggested a strong relationship between the disease and cigarette smoking. Since Seventh-day Adventists do not smoke, a study comparing them with the general population is valuable in studying emphysema.

The five-year research findings show that, as compared to the general California population mortality statistics, there should have been 22 deaths from emphysema among the Adventist control group. There were four such deaths.

According to the doctors reporting the findings "there was less death (in the Adventist group) than expected from all forms of bronchitis, pulmonary fibrosis, asthma and respiratory infections. But there were less than twenty per cent as many deaths from emphysema.

The doctors said in the article that they studied closely not only the four deaths in the Adventist group which were primarily caused by emphysema, but 14 other deaths in that group in which emphysema had been listed as a contrib-

ing cause of death. The physicians pointed out that, based on the general California population, there should have been 51 deaths in the Adventist group in which emphysema was listed as a contributing cause of death.

Of the 18 deaths in the Adventist group in which emphysema was a primary or contributing cause, the researchers were able to obtain thorough information on 10 of those concerned — from three of the four deaths in which emphysema was a primary cause of death, and in seven of the 14 deaths in which it was listed as a contributing cause.

Citing air pollution factors the report states "Another difference between Seventh-day Adventists and California populations was that 42.9 per cent of the latter is concentrated in Los Angeles and Orange counties. This 'basin' area has a rather severe problem with air pollution."

Temple to Hold Starlight Night

"Starlight Night" at Temple Menorah is the theme of the annual membership event that will take place in the social hall of the temple at 8:30 p.m. Saturday evening, Sept. 7.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Greene, co-chairmen, are planning a decor of blue, silver and white, with all the old members as "stars" and the new members as "satellites."

Assisting Mr. and Mrs. Greene with the arrangements of food, decorations, and entertainment are: Mmes. Paul Kinghoffer, George Lewison, Leonard Cole, Ernest Neu, Richard Mayer and Phil Rosenthal.

Hors d'oeuvres and punch will be served. Victor Lecandria and his orchestra will furnish music for dancing.

Jewish families throughout the South Bay and Palos Verdes Peninsula areas will have an opportunity to become acquainted with the temple and its activities.

Rabbi Jerome A. Unger

COUPLES CLUB SETS SWIM PARTY

Mr. and Mrs. Club of Temple Menorah will hold a swim party and barbecue at the pool of the "Pirate Isle" in King Harbor, Redondo Beach at 8 p.m. tomorrow. Admission will be \$5 per couple. Persons desiring reservations are asked to contact Mr. and Mrs. Mark Martin at 371-7229 or Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stock at 371-6980.

Orthodox Church Sets Bible School

Greyfriars Memorial Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 22511 South Figueroa St. will hold vacation bible school from 7 to 9 p.m. daily beginning Monday through Sept. 6. Ropert Pope will be director.

Classes will be conducted for children from age four through eighth grade. Registration is set for the first night of class.

Machean Youth League will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday for children in fourth through twelfth grade. Evening worship service will be at 7:30 p.m.

Morning service will be at 11 o'clock, preceded by Sunday School at 9:30. William Martin is adult Sunday School teacher.

Temple Israel Classes to Get Underway Soon

Religious School classes at Temple Israel of Westchester will resume Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7 and 8.

Pre-kindergarten through ninth grade will meet on Saturdays; third grade through post-confirmation will meet on Sundays.

Principal of the school is the Temple Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mordecai Soloff, author of Jewish history books and Hebrew texts. Bernard Kessler and Arnold Kloman will be vice-principals.

Annual temple picnic will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 25 at Ladera Park. Tickets are available at 75 cents apiece at the temple office.

Applications are being accepted for registration of children in the temple nursery school which will be open 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning Sept. 9. On Tuesdays and Thursdays there will be sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Mrs. Janet Apallo is director.

ST. PHILOMENAS SLATE CANCER FILM

Mrs. Mike Marinovich, president of the St. Philomena Women's Council, has announced a special program to be featured at Monday's meeting of the council at the school hall, located at 21900 So. Main Street.

The American Cancer Society has arranged for a doctor to show and explain the film "Breast Self-Examination." Literature and pamphlets will be distributed. The program will start at 8:45 p.m. All women of the area are invited to attend.

Business portion of the meeting will start at 8 p.m.

CHURCHES

Witness Mass Baptism to Highlight Gathering

Dexter M. Duncan, assistant manager of the Rose Bowl Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses, said today a mass baptism will be one of the highlights at the eight-day religious gathering the first week in September.

Duan formerly served in the Los Angeles area before being transferred to the Pacific Northwest. He was called to Pasadena to assist in organizational arrangements for the huge event and will also serve on the convention program.

"Before an individual can validly and scripturally submit to water baptism he must make an unreserved dedication of his life to God," Dugan explained. "This is not an emotional decision made on the spur of the moment," he declared, "but an intelligent one taken after an extended, systematic study and understanding of God's Word."

He pointed out that multitudes of people are devoted or dedicated to a work, science or cause, but never seriously think of dedicating themselves to God. Hundreds of candidates are expected to be baptized in the special service to be



LESTER M. DUGAN ... arranges events

held near the Rose Bowl. Convention officials expect the mass baptism to be the largest ever conducted by the Witnesses on the West Coast.

The president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, N. H. Knorr, will deliver the principal address on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 3 p.m. when he speaks on the subject, "When God Is King Over All the Earth."

Rev. Maynard Mithun Heads Training School

Rev. Maynard V. Mithun, pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, is dean of the third and largest in a series of Luther League Leadership Training Schools held at California Lutheran College this month in Thousand Oaks, California.

Enrolled are 175 young people representing Luther Leagues in the western states churches of The American Lutheran Church, sponsoring the leadership training sessions. A similar group of 150 leaguers convened on the CLC campus

Aug. 12 to 16 while 127 leaguers attended the leadership training school sponsored at CLC Aug. 5-9; by the Lutheran Church in America.

The present and final group in the 1963 series will conclude their classes today. Mr. and Mrs. Lyle C. Heck and daughters, Sara, Martha, Mary, Anna and Elizabeth of 22308 Shadycroft Ave., were among those registered for the second annual summer lay school of theology.

They are members of Resurrection Lutheran Church.

WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

MORE THINGS ARE WROUGHT BY PRAYER THAN THIS WORLD DREAMS OF

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—Carson at Mainway. Rev. Robert Dehn. Church phone, FA 8-3030; 9:15 and 10:45 morning worship; 9:15 nursery through 5th grade; 10:45 Jr. High through Adult Sunday School; 6:30 p.m. Training Union; 7:00 p.m. Evangelistic service; Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., mid-week service. Nursery care for every service.

NARBONNE AVENUE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH—24730 Narbonne Ave., Lomita. DA 4-6229. Church 8:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

DEL AMO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH—3915 W. 328th St. Ocean, Torrance. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Training Union, 6:30 p.m.; Worship Services, 11 a.m. and 7 a.m. Pastor, Daniel B. Weaver, Jr. FR 8-7440 or FR 1-3925.

CATHOLIC

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH—1800 Inuita Ave., Redondo Beach. Monsignor Daniel P. Collins. Mass 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:15, 12:15, FR 4-6037.

CHURCH OF GOD

SOUTH BAY CHURCH OF GOD—17661 Yukon Ave. Phone 323-3978. Rev. C. L. Tierney. 12415 Yukon, Torrance. First morning service 8:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; second morning service, 11:10 a.m.; Sunday night service, 7:30 p.m. Mid-week services, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

FOUR SQUARE CHURCH

FOUR SQUARE CHURCH—Corner of Arlington and Sepulveda. Telephone, DA 4-2878. Rev. and Mrs. James P. Loven, pastors. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; morning worship, 10:45 a.m.; group services, 6:30 p.m.; V.P. Cadets (Defenders); Evangelistic, 7:15 p.m. Mid-week, Wednesday Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Public invited.

LUTHERAN

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—Located on Carson St. and Flower Ave. in Torrance. Wm. J. Rieder, pastor. Residence, 1625 Flower Ave. Phone FA 8-3249. Phillip C. Hillier, Assoc. Pastor, 479-7710. Church office, 1725 Flower Ave. FA 0-181. First Church worship 8 a.m., Sunday School 9:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.; second morning worship, 10:45 a.m. Christian Elementary, Kindergarten thru 7th grade.

PTA News

FATHER'S NIGHT

Yukon Elementary PTA announces that the October meeting will feature a father's night. Cyrus Phillip of the Bank of America will be guest speaker. He will discuss the history of money and display coins.

Highlighting the November meeting will be an afternoon visit with a school psychologist featuring a question and answer period.

Christmas music featuring the school orchestra and chorus will be featured at the December meeting.

In January the kindergarten class will present a music demonstration and a speaker from the school district who will discuss children's books.

February will feature Founder's Day, Honorary Life Awards, and a skit to demonstrate "Home Study Helps."

The unit will be host to and will elect officers in March.

Featured at the meeting will be a tea and fashion show and a display from the boys' shops.

Installation of new officers and historians report will precede a guest speaker and buzz session in May.

Mrs. Paul Hughes was hostess at a budget meeting Thursday. Teacher's luncheon plans

are being made by Mmes. Fred Arney, Wendell Towell, James Bramlett, Elmer Vandergrift, and Robert West. The event will take place before school opens. A Spanish theme is planned.

'Wisdom' to Be Topic of Sermon

"Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?" This passage from Job (28:20) will be part of the Responsive Reading this Sunday at First Church of Christ, Scientist.

The Bible Lesson is entitled "Mind."

One of the corresponding references from "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy will be this: "When the divine precepts are understood, they unfold the foundation of fellowship, in which one mind is not at war with another, but all have one Spirit, God, one intelligent source, in accordance with the Scriptural command: 'Let this Mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus'" (p. 276).

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